

LONDON RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP

London Resilience Partnership Mass Fatality Framework

London Resilience Partnership Mass Fatality Framework	
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LONDON RESILIENCE GROUP

The London Resilience Group is jointly funded and governed by the Greater London Authority, London Local Authorities, and the London Fire Commissioner. We are hosted by the London Fire Brigade. Our work, and that of the London Resilience Partnership, is overseen by the London Resilience Forum.

Version Control		
Version	Date	Change (owner)
4.1	28/04/14	Home Office CAP & SLRO amendments Post – Olympic revisions (MH, HW)
4.2	17/11/14	Accommodation of subsequent LRF plans (Strategic Co-ordination Protocol, Humanitarian Assistance, Evacuation & Shelter, Communicating with the Public Framework). Lessons from Lessons Learned database Learning from: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ex. Anubis – 17th Oct 2013 • Ex. Safer City – 29th Nov 2013 • Ex. Opus Resilience – 30th Sep 2014 • (MH, GB, HW, P H-C, JH)
4.3	17/02/14	Contacts Sheet (HW, MH, JH)
4.4	08/04/15	Home Office, DCLG, Police, Local Authority, London Mass Fatality Working Group (Coroners, LMFVG, LRP, Resilience Direct)
6.0	05/09/18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine review, streamlining and general updates • Removal of references to NEMA which has been disbanded • Annex referring to DDM sites and contact details removed to be stored separately and securely on Resilience Direct as a working document. This can be accessed via LRG.
7.0	17/12/21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Routine review, streamlining, general updates and reformatted into new template <p>New sections added:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 2. Action Checklist ○ 3.2 Activation Process – new diagram ○ 4.4 Strategic Coordinating Group – new diagram, sub-groups to consider and frameworks and plans to consider ○ 5. Key Considerations ○ Annex B – Acronyms <p>Updates / additions to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 6. Resources and support available ○ 7. Strategic Aim – purpose of MFCG included ○ 9. Other considerations ○ Annex A – Mass Fatality Coordination Group Agenda <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annex referring to DDM sites and contact details updated

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Part 1 – Capability Framework

Part 1 of this document highlights the key information within the Mass Fatality Framework for use by relevant officers to inform their response activity. For further guidance, supplementary and reference information is contained in Part 2.

1. Definition

1.1 Definition

A mass fatality incident is defined as ‘any incident where the number of fatalities is greater than normal local arrangements can manage’¹.

1.2 Purpose

To provide a Framework for dealing with mass fatality (multiple or large numbers of human fatalities that may be complex) incidents.

The objectives of the plan are:

- to enable an effective and flexible response to a mass fatality incident
- to illustrate how the mass fatality response aligns with other strategic coordination functions within either the Police or the wider London Resilience Partnership
- to support effective decision making at the tactical and strategic level
- to highlight where operational planning is required to underpin this plan

1.3 Planning Assumption

All agencies maintain their own emergency and business continuity plans, which reflect the triggers and actions within this framework.

The lead consortium boroughs have appropriate and sufficient Designated Disaster Mortuary (DDM) plans and arrangements in place.

This Framework focuses on the initial response and coordination to a mass fatalities incident.

The response and coordination to the resultant impacts will be covered by other response arrangements (as detailed in the relevant plans) and it is assumed that these arrangements will eventually supersede the initial response arrangements.

1.4 Audience

This Framework is intended for the nominated representatives of organisations across the London Resilience Partnership, who are tasked with managing the strategic response to a mass fatality incident. Local responders may utilise this framework to inform their local planning and response.

1.5 Security Classification

This version of the framework is available to members of the public.

There is an Official-Sensitive version stored on Resilience Direct, which contains additional information that would be required during a response.

¹ Home Office and Cabinet Office. (2006). *Guidance on dealing with fatalities in emergencies*.

2. Action Checklist

Complete	Action	Section
	Activate the plan	Section 3 – Activation Process
	Determine the structure of the response and sub-groups.	Section 4 – Coordination structure and sub-groups
	Assess the short, medium, and long-term implications and impacts	Section 5 – Key considerations
	Determine the resources and support	Section 6 – Resources and Support
	Set strategy and objectives	Section 7 – Strategic Aim

3. Activation Process

3.1 Framework Activation

The London Mass Fatality Framework may be invoked when a mass fatality incident occurs in London. There may be complex, multiple, or large numbers of fatalities. Depending on the situation these may or may not be more than local mortuary arrangements would otherwise usually deal with on a day-to-day basis.

Threats and risks that may result in a mass fatality incident can be found in the London Risk Register. This Framework may also be activated in response to an incident overseas which calls for the identification and repatriation of large numbers of UK nationals.

The establishment of a Mass Fatalities Coordination Group will trigger the activation of the Framework.

3.2 Notification and Strategic Coordination

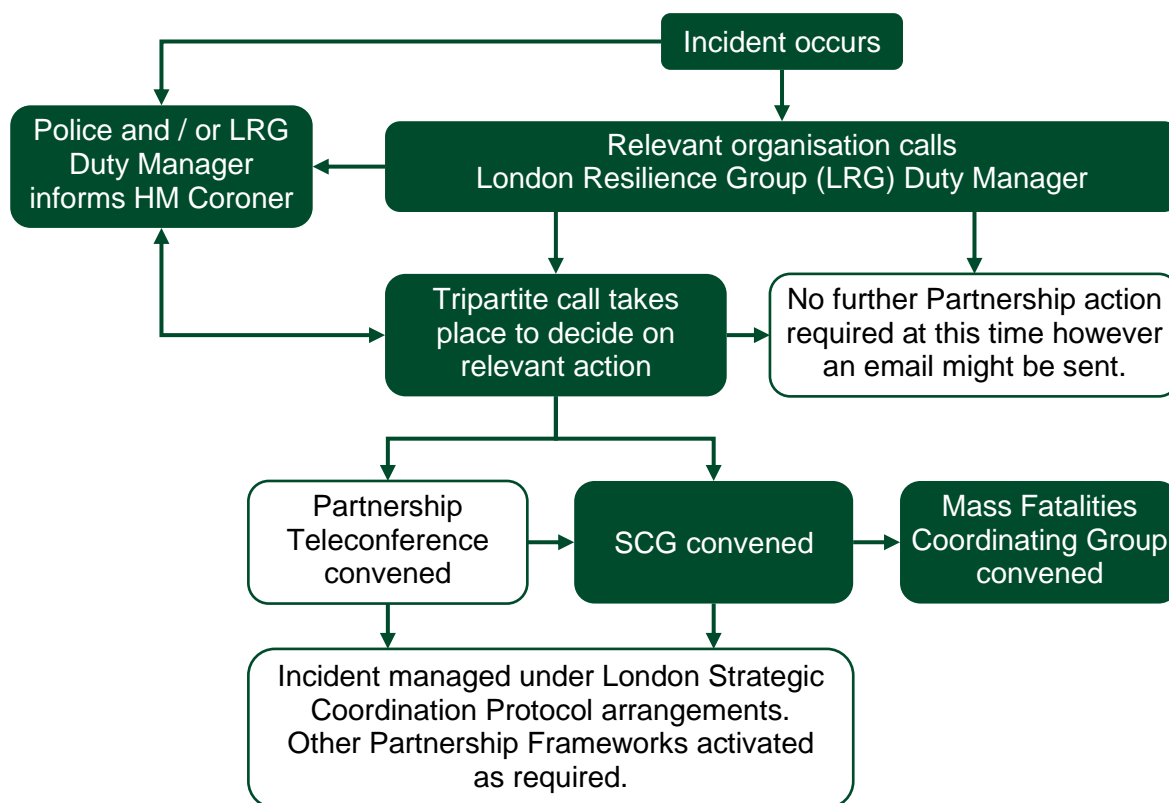
Following a report of a mass fatality incident, the Police and/or the London Resilience Group Duty Manager will inform the relevant HM Coroner. The Chief Coroner may determine which HM Coroner will lead the coronial aspects if the incident sits across more than one jurisdiction.

A number of different units within the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS), City of London Police (CoLP) and British Transport Police (BTP) may be notified. These include:

- Specialist Crime Teams - responsible for Disaster Victim Identification (DVI), recovery of human remains, forensics, evidence gathering, investigation and mortuary operations.
- MPS Central Operations – command, control, and resources.
- Counter Terrorism Teams – investigation (if required).
- UK DVI can also provide support, coordination, resources, and international liaison.

The Police Senior Identification Manager (SIM) and Senior Investigating Officer (SIO), in consultation with the HM Coroner, will need to assess the potential number of fatalities and consider the complexity of the incident (i.e. condition of the victims, extent of disruption and whether multiple sites are involved) to inform the response.

Coordination is likely to require a multi-agency approach both in response and recovery. The London Strategic Coordination Protocol provides guidance for multi-agency strategic coordination. It should be read in conjunction with this Framework.



4. Coordination Structure and Sub-Groups

4.1 Mass Fatality Coordination Group

The Mass Fatality Coordination Group (MFCG) is chaired by HM Coroner. It is a multi-agency group that sets the strategy for body recovery and identification. A representative from the MFCG will feed into the Strategic Coordinating Group (if sitting). The HM Coroner's office (or Lead Coroner's office) for the incident will provide a secretariat function for the MFCG.

The strategy may include the need to:

- reliably and scientifically identify human remains
- establish the precise cause of death
- collect evidence of the crime / samples
- prepare human remains for release to relatives
- ensure Human Tissue Authority compliance
- consider religious needs

The MFCG will decide the scale and scope of the mortuary response. Consideration should be given to the group's ability and facilities to maintain shared situational awareness. Minutes will be taken, and all key decisions and actions recorded.

Membership will be dependent upon the nature of the incident, but may consist of:

- HM Coroner (Chair)
- Nominated minute taker
- Coroner's support service
 - HM Coroner's Officer
 - Local authority representative
- Supervising Forensic Pathologist
- Police Senior Investigating Officer (SIO)
- Police Senior Identification Manager (SIM)

- Mortuary Facilities Manager (usually appointed by the Local Authority / NHS)
- A strategic representative from the relevant Local Authority(ies)
- London Resilience Group representative
- Faith and Belief Engagement Cell representative
- Police Mortuary Operations Co-ordinator (PMOC)
- Relevant agency financial representatives
- Human Tissue Authority
- Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) – RED (Resilience and Emergencies Division) Govt. Liaison Team
- Building Control Manager /Designated Contractor as appropriate
- Police Logistical Support Representative
- Air / Marine / Rail Accident Investigation Branch
- National Health Service
- Family Liaison Coordinator

The MFCG will select the most appropriate mortuary option to manage the incident.

- Local Authority mortuaries
- One or more of the Designated Disaster Mortuaries
- One or more of the Designated Disaster Mortuaries with additional body storage
- Elements of the Home Office UK DVI assets

4.2 Financial Management Group

Upon activation of the MFCG, a primary action for the relevant Local Authority(ies) is to set up a Financial Management Group to monitor, document and maintain control of Local Authority spending related to the incident. Membership may include:

- Senior manager of finance - e.g. director / executive director (*Chair*)
- Minute taker
- Mortuary facility director
- Relevant directors / Heads of service (e.g. procurement, commissioning, finance, property)
- Coronial area / Coroner's Consortium
 - Finance representative(s)
 - Emergency planning representative(s)

The group should consider the financial implications of mortuary operations including budget, associated supply chain arrangements and the financial management process.

The Local Authority should also provide senior financial representatives to attend each MFCG meeting. Financial representatives must be authorised to make decisions.

Section 24 of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009 covers financial arrangements, expenses and costs incurred by the HM Coroner.

Local Authorities may be able to recover some costs incurred responding to the incident through the Government's "Bellwin" scheme (Section 155 of the Local Government and Housing Act 1989). Details are available on the [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk) website.

4.3 Mortuary Management Group(s)

This group is concerned with the operation of the chosen facility or an existing Designated Disaster Mortuary (with or without augmented body storage). Notwithstanding the considerable differences of scale and financial commitment, this group will work to ensure the required functions for effective operation are considered. It is acknowledged that the method will differ considerably depending upon the scope of the mortuary response. Group members are predominantly provided by the Local Authority (within which the facility is located) and may include:

- Police Mortuary Operations Co-ordinator (PMOC) (Chair)
- Facility Director (On-Site)
- Mortuary Facilities Manager
- Mortuary Technicians
- Health and Safety Officer
- Resources Manager
- Procurement Officer
- IT Officer and Administrative Support
- Emergency Planning and Business Continuity
- Officer responsible for liaison with the Human Tissue Authority

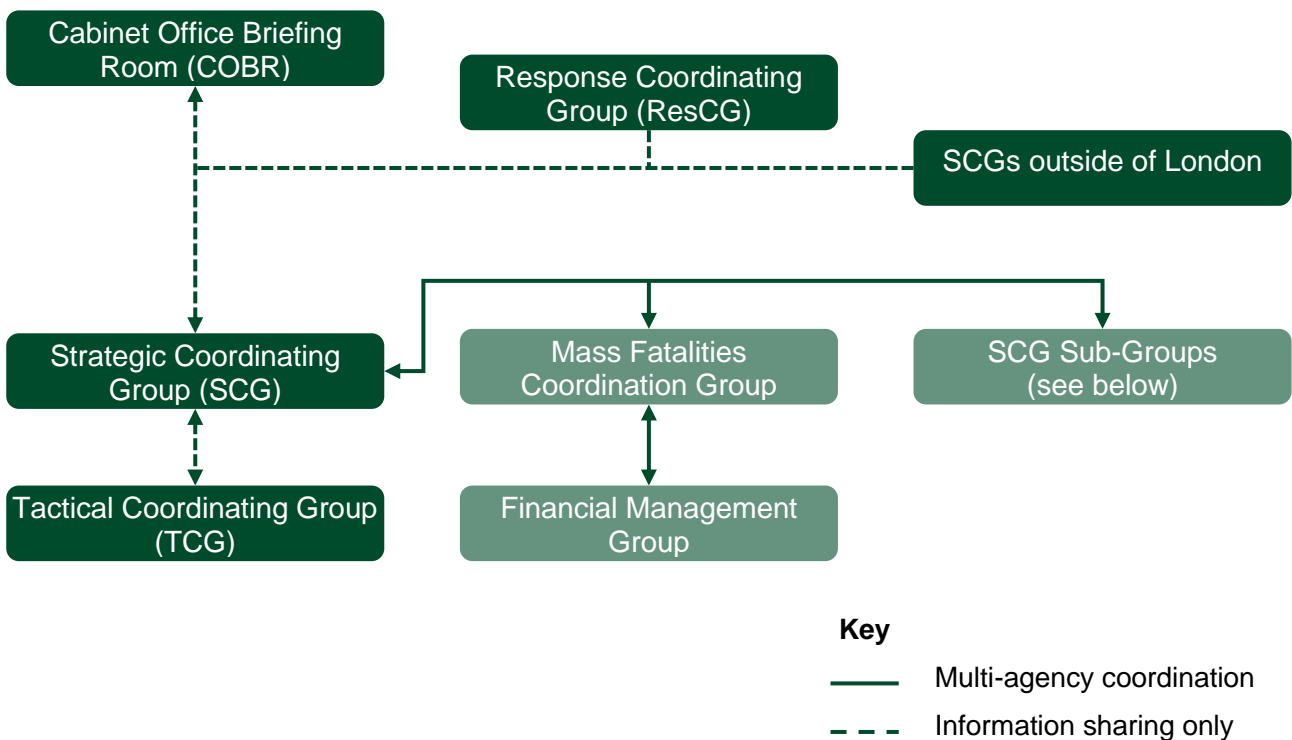
Whether functions require individual officers or teams will depend on the scale of the incident, the size of the facility and the duration of operations. The initial task for the Mortuary Management Group is to appoint team leaders for each function. Role specific responsibilities should be covered by local planning and associated arrangements.

The HM Coroner (or their representative) may also sit on local Mortuary Management Group(s).

4.4 Strategic Coordinating Group

For information on Strategic Coordinating Group arrangements in the event of a major incident, refer to the London Strategic Coordination Protocol and the London Emergency Services Liaison Panel (LESLP) Major Incident Procedure Manual.

The HM Coroner (or their representative) may feed into the Strategic Coordinating Group. The HM Coroner is independent but engagement with this group may be mutually beneficial.



Sub-groups to be considered*

Sub-Group	Purpose
Humanitarian Assistance Steering Group	Facilitate humanitarian assistance activity delivery such as psychosocial support and commemorations
Scientific and Technical Advice Cell	Provide relevant subject matter expertise
London Resilience Communication Group	Ensure centralised, appropriate, and consistent partnership communications
Recovery Coordinating Group	Plan for and influence wider longer-term activities and outcomes
Faith and Belief Engagement Cell	Bring together community faith leaders to support communication and engagement with the public and the bereaved.

*Appendix 1 of the Strategic Coordination Protocol provides a list and summary of capabilities plus details of the lead agencies.

London Resilience partnership response frameworks and plans to consider include:

- Humanitarian Assistance Framework
 - Handbook for Humanitarian Assistance lead officers and steering group members
- Recovery Coordination Framework
- Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) External Emergency Plans
- Pandemic Influenza Framework
- Severe Weather and Natural Hazards Framework
- Strategic Flood Response Framework
- CBRN(e) Response Framework
- Structural Collapse Response and Recovery Framework (Site Management Group)
- Voluntary Sector Capabilities Document

Note: The above list is non-exhaustive and other frameworks may be of relevance.

5. Key Considerations

The below serves as a general reference tool that is subject to the scale, impact, and complexity of the incident and will be the responsibility of the SCG to assure delivery of via the appropriate sub-group or accountable agency. It is non-exhaustive and wider factors may need to be considered.

Operational Responders	Tactical Responders	Strategic Responders
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Initial Operational Response (IOR) and Specialist Operational Response (SOR) • Threat and hazard assessment • Rescue and recovery • Triage, treatment, and transportation • Environmental protection • Evacuation and shelter • Emergency centres including access to services (Survivor Reception; Family & Friends Reception; Rest; and Humanitarian Assistance) • Preservation of evidence • Contaminated waste disposal • Vigils and tributes • Health and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tactical command, control, and coordination structures • Resource management and capabilities versus capacity • Identification of strategic and tactical holding areas • Scene management • Contamination risks • Any impact on water supply and other utility services • Intelligence and/or evidential gathering opportunities • Warning and Informing • Public reassurance • Coordination and distribution of medical counter measures • Logistics –the displacement of people, places, food, transport • Major transport hubs and the London Underground network • Casualty bureau • Animals and wildlife • Community impact assessments • Health and wellbeing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strategic and tactical parameters • Balance between investigation and multi-agency consequence management • International/national media • Communications and press strategy – tailored messaging considering both mainstream and social media • National reporting • Political sensitivities • Religious sensitivities • Local faith community needs • Impact on infrastructure • Critical National Infrastructure (including those with International consequences) • Threats to strategically significant locations and events • Recovery planning • Political sensitivities and international relations • Economic and financial implications • Financial responsibility • Legislation and policies • Any community tensions • Public health impacts and long-term monitoring • Commemorations e.g. memorials and anniversaries • Wider consequences • Health and wellbeing

6. Resources and Support Available

Resources and support can be requested from across the London Resilience Partnership through the strategic coordination structures.

Resource / Support	Description
<p>Police Services and Disaster Victim Identification (DVI)</p>	<p>The Metropolitan Police Service, City of London Police and British Transport Police all have a number of DVI personnel that can be deployed in response to a mass fatality incident. The Metropolitan Police Service lead on coronial support.</p> <p>The police service is responsible for investigating the incident, tracing missing persons, body recovery and identification (as and when appropriate).</p> <p>The police service has responsibility for managing the reception and documentation of the deceased arriving at the mortuary and the gathering of physical evidence.</p> <p>The police are responsible for coordinating the collection of Ante-Mortem (AM) and Post-Mortem (PM) data and the reconciliation process.</p> <p>The police will provide the initial security of any mortuary site before other satisfactory arrangements are in place or agreed.</p> <p>Where there is a police investigation into a death, the police have a duty to communicate effectively with the bereaved family. Following a mass fatality incident this will be conducted through Family Liaison Officers (FLO). The primary role of the FLO is that of an investigator and will involve facilitating the forensic retrieval of Ante Mortem data from the deceased’s home and/or families by Ante-Mortem Forensic Teams. DNA material, finger and palm marks, dental records, and other identifiers such as photographs would be collected to assist the Senior Identification Manager (SIM) in identifying those involved. The FLO will explain to family members the role of the HM Coroner, the process of identification and keep family members updated regards the identification and/or investigation. A rigorous strategy should accompany every FLO deployment and should be supervised by a trained Family Liaison Coordinator. The aims of the strategy must be clearly defined with achievable objectives based on the evidential requirements of the case.</p>
<p>London Coroners and Designated Disaster Mortuaries</p>	<p>London has eight coronial areas covering the 33 London Boroughs including the City of London, each with an appointed HM Coroner. Each HM Coroner has nominated a mortuary within their coronial area to act as a Designated Disaster Mortuary (DDM) in the event of a mass fatality incident, with the exception of the City of London. The City of London has arrangements in place to use one of the other DDMs.</p>

	<p>The HM Coroner is responsible for the investigation into the cause and circumstances of violent or unnatural deaths, or deaths of an unknown cause, until such time as they are released for burial or cremation. The HM Coroner will give instructions on how bodies will be dealt with and will make the final decision on the mode of identification to be pursued. This responsibility must be exercised in coordination with the police who will be treating the incident as a crime until the contrary is established.</p>
<p>London Temporary Body Storage Sites</p>	<p>A number of potential temporary body storage sites may be identifiable across London subject to the conditions and space available.</p>
<p>Local and regional Faith and Belief Groups.</p>	<p>The faith sector will play a vital role in the response to a mass fatality incident, providing a crucial trusted voice for their communities, caring for families and providing bereavement support. They can speak into community tensions, especially where the incident has raised the question of a religious motivation and there is the risk of escalation or retaliation.</p> <p>They will advise authorities on death management, and can provide multi-faith chaplaincy for temporary mortuaries, responders, staff, and officers.</p> <p>Locally, they can provide assistance with the creation of survivor reception centres, rest centres and the rapid provision of humanitarian assistance.</p> <p>They will provide funeral liturgies and liturgies for mass burial or multiple burials taking place at the same time. They can signpost individuals to other agencies and cascade information to communities. They are in a position to provide buildings where this is agreed, and a venue such as Westminster Abbey or St Paul's Cathedral for a National Memorial Service.</p> <p>They can assist with local knowledge to feed into "community impact assessments" and in helping to monitor "health and wellbeing".</p>
<p>London Ambulance Service (LAS)</p>	<p>As part of the casualty triage process at any incident. The London Ambulance Service has a responsibility to confirm the life status of any patient. This will include the Recognition of Life Extinct (ROLE) on the deceased at the earliest opportunity. May be delayed due to structural instability etc.</p> <p>Those that have been assessed as deceased will have the placement of a 'DEAD' Black triage card on them recording time, date, location of the deceased along with 'Call Sign' and initials of person performing ROLE.</p> <p>The LAS Hazardous Area Response Team receive forensic awareness training and are able to work alongside the DVI teams.</p>
<p>National Inter-Agency Liaison Officers (NILO)</p>	<p>A NILO is vetted, trained and identifiable emergency responder from the emergency services who can operate in either a command or tactical adviser role. They can</p>

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	<p>support pre-planned or spontaneous operations at strategic, tactical, and operational levels, including facilitating interoperable working with partner agencies.</p> <p>LFB, LAS and BTP have qualified NILO's who are fully conversant with multi agency working and have been familiarised with the DVI role and how the NILO network can provide assistance via their respective organisations.</p>
London Resilience Group	<p>During an incident London Resilience Group (LRG) will support strategic coordination and situational awareness across the London Resilience Partnership. LRG is positioned to facilitate inter-agency communication including liaison with DLUHC-RED and, by extension, the Lead Government Department.</p> <p>In a mass fatality incident LRG may offer support and guidance against regional frameworks and the associated arrangements, depending on resources.</p>

7. Strategic Aim

7.1 Purpose

The purpose of the Mass Fatality Coordination Group is to ensure:

- that the deceased are recovered in a dignified (and, where relevant, in a religiously appropriate) manner
- the integrity of identification and forensic evidence
- identification is as prompt and accurate as possible using ethical means
- families are kept involved throughout the process

7.2 Lord Justice Clarke

In addition to the above, the four key principles which Lord Justice Clarke² believed should be kept in mind throughout the identification process following a major emergency should be adhered to:

- The provision of honest and, as far as possible, accurate information at all times and at every stage
- Respect for the deceased and the bereaved
- A sympathetic and caring approach throughout
- The avoidance of mistaken identity

² Lord Justice Clarke, 2001

Part 2 – Associated Guidance

This section offers guidance relating to a mass fatalities incident. It is intended to complement the preceding Capability Framework. This guidance should be considered alongside the following resources as appropriate:

8. International Dimension

8.1 Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office

The Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO) are able to respond to and/or assist with incidents involving either foreign nationals who have died or have been killed in the UK or British nationals who have died or been killed whilst overseas.

8.2 UK Disaster Victim Identification Capability

UK Disaster Victim Identification (UK DVI) is coordinated by the National Police Chiefs' Council (NPCC) and has capacity to deploy specialist personnel in the United Kingdom at the request of the Chief Police Officer responsible for the incident and abroad at the request of the FCDO. Request for this facility must be made through the National Police Coordination Centre (NPoCC) using the established mutual aid request format, identifying what skills are required.

UK DVI is the liaison point for INTERPOL in relation to mass fatality incidents. Where foreign nationals are amongst the deceased victims, INTERPOL protocols are that foreign authorities should be able to observe the DVI process. Increasingly there are examples of countries supplying international mutual aid following mass fatality incidents.

Under the Vienna Convention the responsible authorities should inform the relevant Embassy or High Commission when citizens of another country are believed to be amongst the fatalities.

9. Other Considerations

9.1 Regional & National Assistance

Regional assistance may be required as part of the response to an incident. Temporarily relocating cases to a neighbouring mortuary or mutual aid of personnel are examples of such assistance. The MFCG will decide if London's mortuary capacity has been exceeded and request assistance indicating what elements of the capability they require assistance with.

Home Office National Resilience assets are available to support operations. Temporary collapsible body storage units, mortuary trolleys and other equipment are held centrally and can be requested via the National Disaster Victim Identification Unit - UK DVI. Access to specialist technical capabilities such as mobile Computerised Tomography Scanners can also be sourced via UK DVI.

For longer term operations other national assets, specifically refrigerated shipping containers have been distributed by Home Office National Resilience around the UK including the London region. These assets can be requested where appropriate to support operations across the UK.

9.2 Suspect(s) Mortuary Arrangements

In the event of a malicious attack, regardless of methodology and dependent on its scale, the London Mass Fatality Framework will be invoked. A Disaster Victim Identification process will commence for any deceased members of the public and the style and scope of mortuary option will be determined by the MFCG.

It is recognised that there are extreme sensitivities in separating perpetrators that kill themselves during the course of an attack, from members of the public killed in the course of an incident. There

is also a need to establish a forensic sterile corridor with a bespoke suspects' mortuary supported by specialist forensic staff to support the investigation.

The Designated Disaster Mortuaries can be used to process deceased suspects. Each one is self-sufficient, can be secured and will have its own activation plan. If a malicious attack is being dealt with then the provision of a 'suspects' mortuary will need to be considered.

The MFCG will provide ongoing strategic leadership and advice.

9.3 Contaminated Fatalities

The Home Office has produced guidance on the safe handling of contaminated fatalities in the event of a CBRN attack. Similar precautions such as specialist protective equipment and procedures are required for incidents involving hazardous industrial substances (HAZMAT incidents). The London CBRN Framework can also be referred to.

9.4 Family Viewing / Visit Arrangements

Bereaved families have a right to view / visit the remains of their loved ones, subject to prevailing health and safety considerations, such as CBRN contamination.

In many cases, families will want to view / visit their loved one for human and emotional reasons and should not be discouraged from doing so, although clear and direct information should be provided by the FLO regarding the physical condition of the body in order to allow the family to make informed decisions regarding the viewing process.

Where possible, steps will be made to repatriate the human remains to a nominated funeral director where viewings can be conducted with the greatest possible degree of dignity and respect for the families concerned. Funeral homes are designed for this purpose and this rationale is designed to divert the family away from the mortuary where intrusive clinical procedures are being conducted that may compound the family's distress. A requirement for 'defence' post-mortem examinations may have a bearing on this decision.

Once human remains are identified they should be released to the family / undertaker. However, previous incidents have shown that families / loved ones may want the reconciliation process complete before a body is returned to them. Depending on the level of disruption to bodies this means longer term storage may need to be considered. If a body is unable to be released, consideration should be given to viewing at the designated mortuary.

The religious needs and expectations of the bereaved should be taken into account and respected wherever possible. Local and regional Faith & Belief Engagement Cells, community leaders and faith-based funeral directors are key conversation partners and advisors who should be included as early as possible in the process. Where the normal practices of faith communities cannot be met, for example because of the need for speed or difficulties with capacities, faith leaders can be key advocates and communicators.

It is imperative that these arrangements are connected to other humanitarian response activities via the Humanitarian Assistance Steering Group.

9.5 Humanitarian Assistance

The London Humanitarian Assistance Framework provides guidance for activity aimed at addressing the needs of people affected by emergencies, the provision of practical, psychological and social aftercare and support in the short, medium and long term. Assistance will be likely be delivered via the Humanitarian Assistance Steering Group (HASG) on behalf of the Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG). It is important to establish early how the MFCG will be represented at the HASG.

Key humanitarian assistance activities likely associated with a mass fatality incident are the provision of emergency centres, arrangements for tributes and memorials, on-going/ keyworker support to those affected and coordination of physical and monetary donations.

It is natural in the delivery of humanitarian assistance to work closely as a partnership, particularly harnessing the expertise and support of the community and voluntary sector. Representatives of the Voluntary Sector Capability Panel and Faith Sector Panel will be included within the SCG and/or HASG to provide guidance.

9.6 Communications and Media Strategy

In the event of a mass fatality incident in London and the City of London, existing media and communications arrangements will be established. The London Resilience Communication Group Framework covers the process for convening the Group (typically chaired by the Metropolitan Police Service during initial periods). This group will also report to the Strategic Coordinating Group as required.

The lead organisation responsible for overseeing the operational response to the major incident or mass fatality event will take primacy for communication and media handling matters. The London Resilience Communications Group will meet on a routine basis to coordinate communications issues and respond to emerging risks.

Confirming numbers of fatalities is a decision for the Gold commander at the lead organisation, in consultation with operational leads at other supporting agencies, including HM Coroner. Information will only be provided when verified and coordinated with agencies across the London Resilience Communications Group.

Consideration should be made to release information on number of fatalities only after next of kin have been notified of the death. The identities of the deceased must not be released without the authority of the lead organisation, the Senior Identification Manager and HM Coroner.

It is recognised that faith leaders are trusted members of their community and may have the ability to reach large numbers of people with specific messages. It may be that faith leaders are supported in a way that they can lead on the delivery of messages, helping to support communities at distressing times and increasing compliances with response processes.

9.7 Health and Safety

All agencies are required to comply with the requirements of the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, and all other relevant statutory provisions and recognised codes of practice to provide, as far as is reasonably practicable, a safe working environment.

Issues will be referred to the Strategic Coordinating Group as appropriate for further direction. This may include using the Scientific Technical Advice Cell (STAC) to inform the health and safety risk assessment process and associated safe systems of work.

9.8 Cross borough / cross jurisdiction incidents

It is acknowledged that an incident could sit across boundaries and therefore involve multiple local authorities / coronial areas. This would bring in complexities around finance and coordination, however this is something that will need to be considered at the time based on the specifics of the incident.

ANNEX A – Mass Fatality Coordination Group Agenda

Item	Considerations
Welcome and Introductions	
Actions from last meeting	Progress
Incident Overview	Number & location of fatalities
	Current Intelligence
	Risks
	Environmental / Personnel
Tracking casualties	How this is being maintained
Investigation & Forensic strategies	Investigation priorities
	Suspect considerations
	Casualty Bureau
	UK DVI role
	Incident / Lead Coroner
	Cause / Time of death
	Primary / Secondary identifiers
Co-mingled, fragmented and calcined remains	
CT Scanning	Use of CT Scanning
Mortuary Options	DDM – location / logistics
	Augmented DDM
	One or more DDMs / mortuary(ies)
	Suspect mortuary
	Home Office UK DVI assets requirements
	Mutual Aid requirement – London or National
	Impact on ongoing London / local mortuary capacity from business as usual (knock-on effects)
	Human Tissue Act – requirements
	Additional considerations:
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Distance from site
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Accessibility
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Security & site ownership
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provision of viewing facilities
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Religious needs and sensitivities of the bereaved
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Provision of staff welfare facilities 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Release of bodies 	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Collection of personal possessions 	
Specialist Personnel	Cadre of Coroners

Item	Considerations
	UK DVI personnel
	UK DVI Forensic Personnel
	Multi-Faith Chaplaincy Teams
Financial Considerations	Local Authorities
	Other agencies
Communications Strategy	MFCG links to other strategic coordination functions
	Link to the Strategic Coordinating Group
	Link to the London Resilience Communications Group
	Link between local press officers and the London Resilience Communications Group
	Link to local and regional Faith and Belief leaders
	Co-ordination of 'one single voice' to confirm numbers of the deceased
	Liaison with other meeting groups
Welfare of staff and Humanitarian Assistance	Link to the Humanitarian Assistance Steering Group
	Links to the Recovery Coordinating Group
	Links to Faith and Beliefs Group
	Bereavement services
	Provision of multi-faith chaplaincy
	Voluntary agency support
Considerations for foreign nationals	Impact and communications
Summary of actions	Share with other relevant groups
Date and time of next meeting	To be agreed

ANNEX B – Acronyms

AM	Ante-Mortem
BTP	British Transport Police (BTP)
CBRN(e)	Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, explosive
COBR	Cabinet Office Briefing Room
CoLP	City of London Police
DDM	Designated Disaster Mortuary
DLUHC	Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
DVI	Disaster Victim Identification
FCDO	Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office
FFRC	Family and Friends Reception Centres
FLO	Family Liaison Officers
HAC	Humanitarian Assistance Centre
HALO	Humanitarian Assistance Lead Officer
HASG	Humanitarian Assistance Steering Group
HM	Her Majesty's
INTERPOL	International Criminal Police Organization
IOR	Initial Operational Response
LAS	London Ambulance Service
LESPL	London Emergency Services Liaison Panel
LRG	London Resilience Group
MFCG	Mass Fatality Coordination Group
MPS	Metropolitan Police Service
NILO	National Inter-Agency Liaison Officers
NPoCC	National Police Coordination Centre
PM	Post-Mortem
PMOC	Police Mortuary Operations Co-ordinator
RCG	Recovery Coordinating Group
RED	Resilience and Emergencies Division
ResCG	Response Coordinating Group
SCG	Strategic Coordinating Group
SIM	Senior Identification Manager
SIO	Senior Investigating Officer
SOR	Specialist Operational Response
STAC	Scientific Technical Advice Cell
SuRC	Survivor Reception Centres
TCG	Tactical Coordinating Group

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LONDON RESILIENCE GROUP

The London Resilience Group is jointly funded and governed by the Greater London Authority, London Local Authorities and the London Fire Commissioner. We are hosted by the London Fire Brigade. Our work, and that of the London Resilience Partnership, is overseen by the London Resilience Forum.